

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 520 1. A method comprising:  
2 927 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-  
3 list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list  
4 message from a vendor.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing  
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response  
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further  
4 includes:  
5 informing a manufacturer of specific rebate data.

1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said informing a  
2 manufacturer of specific rebate data further includes:  
3 informing the manufacturer of at least one payment due or  
4 owed to at least one retailer, where such payment is  
5 based, at least in part, on a record having at least  
6 one recorded rebate transaction.

1 4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said informing a  
2 manufacturer of specific rebate data further includes:  
3 informing the manufacturer of at least one payment due or  
4 owed to at least one retailer, where such payment is  
5 based, at least in part, on a record having at least  
6 one recorded rebate transaction and a specified  
7 period of time.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing  
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response  
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further  
4 includes:  
5 informing a retailer of specific rebate data.

1 ~~a2)~~ 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said informing a  
2 retailer of specific rebate data further includes:

3 informing the retailer of at least one payment due or  
4 owed to the retailer, where such payment is based,  
5 at least in part, on a record having at least one  
6 recorded rebate transaction.

1 7. The method of Claim 5, wherein said informing a  
2 retailer of specific rebate data further includes:

3 informing the retailer of at least one payment due or  
4 owed to the retailer, where such payment is based,  
5 at least in part, on a record having at least one  
6 recorded rebate transaction and a specified period  
7 of time.

1 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing  
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response  
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further  
4 includes:

5 recording a rebate transaction.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said recording a  
2 rebate transaction further includes:

3 adjusting a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage counter in  
4 response to a message from at least one rebate-  
5 related vendor that a rebate vehicle has been  
6 scanned.

1 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the rebate vehicle  
2 comprises a coupon or an in-store special.

1 ~~a2)~~ 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing  
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response

3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further  
4 includes:

5 sending a message that a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage  
6 counter has been adjusted in response to a message  
7 from at least one rebate-related vendor that a  
8 rebate vehicle has been scanned.

1 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing  
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response  
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further  
4 includes:

5 sending a message -- containing at least one part  
6 selected from the group comprising the value of a  
7 rebate, and at least one limit on the quantity of  
8 the rebate -- in response to a message from at least  
9 one rebate-related vendor that a rebate vehicle has  
10 been scanned.

1 13. The method of Claim 1, wherein dispensing  
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response  
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further  
4 includes:

5 receiving a message from a vendor that at least one  
6 rebate vehicle has been scanned.

1 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said receiving a  
2 message from a vendor that at least one rebate vehicle has  
3 been scanned further includes:

4 checking the message for an indicia of origination.

1 15. The method of Claim 13, wherein said receiving a  
2 message from a vendor that at least one rebate vehicle has  
3 been scanned further includes:

4 receiving a message originating from at least one scanner  
5 of the vendor.

1 16. The method of Claim 15, wherein said receiving a  
2 message originating from at least one scanner of the vendor  
3 further includes:  
4 receiving the message via at least one central computer.

1 17. The method of Claim 15, wherein said receiving a  
2 message originating from at least one scanner of the vendor  
3 further includes:  
4 receiving the message via at least one computer local to  
5 a retailer or a manufacturer.

1 18. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing  
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response  
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further  
4 comprises:  
5 receiving a message inquiring as to monies owed.

1 19. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing  
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response  
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further  
4 comprising:  
5 receiving a message from a retailer or a manufacturer.

1 20. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing  
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response  
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further  
4 includes:  
5 informing a vendor as to monies owed for said dispensing  
6 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list.

1 21. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
2 billing at least one vendor for said dispensing  
3 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list.

1 22. The method of Claim 21, wherein said billing at  
2 least one vendor for said dispensing information related to a  
3 multi-vendor-rebate-list further comprises:

4 billing the at least one vendor a fee selected from a  
5 group comprising a fee based upon answering an  
6 inquiry as to monies owed, a fee based on the value  
7 of rebate transactions, and a fee based on the  
8 number of rebate transactions.

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1 23. A system comprising:

2 means for dispensing information related to a multi-  
3 vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-  
4 rebate-list message from a vendor.

1 24. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for  
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,  
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a  
4 vendor further includes:

5 means for informing a manufacturer of specific rebate  
6 data.

1 25. The system of Claim 24, wherein said means for  
2 informing a manufacturer of specific rebate data further  
3 includes:

4 means for informing the manufacturer of at least one  
5 payment due or owed to at least one retailer, where  
6 such payment is based, at least in part, on a record  
7 having at least one recorded rebate transaction.

1 26. The system of Claim 24, wherein said means for  
2 informing a manufacturer of specific rebate data further  
3 includes:

4 means for informing the manufacturer of at least one  
5 payment due or owed to at least one retailer, where  
6 such payment is based, at least in part, on a record  
7 having at least one recorded rebate transaction and  
8 a specified period of time.

1 27. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for  
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,  
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a  
4 vendor further includes:

5 means for informing a retailer of specific rebate data.

1 28. The system of Claim 27, wherein said means for  
2 informing a retailer of specific rebate data further includes:  
3 means for informing the retailer of at least one payment  
4 due or owed to the retailer, where such payment is  
5 based, at least in part, on a record having at least  
6 one recorded rebate transaction.

1 29. The system of Claim 27, wherein said means for  
2 informing a retailer of specific rebate data further includes:  
3 means for informing the retailer of at least one payment  
4 due or owed to the retailer, where such payment is  
5 based, at least in part, on a record having at least  
6 one recorded rebate transaction and a specified  
7 period of time.

1 30. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for  
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,  
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a  
4 vendor further includes:  
5 means for recording a rebate transaction.

1 31. The system of Claim 30, wherein said means for  
2 recording a rebate transaction further includes:  
3 means for adjusting a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage  
4 counter in response to a message from at least one  
5 rebate-related vendor that a rebate vehicle has been  
6 scanned.

1 32. The system of Claim 31, wherein the rebate vehicle  
2 comprises a coupon or an in-store special.

1 33. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for  
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,

3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a  
4 vendor further includes:

5 means for sending a message that a rebate vehicle volume-  
6 of-usage counter has been adjusted in response to a  
7 message from at least one rebate-related vendor that  
8 a rebate vehicle has been scanned.

1 34. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for  
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,  
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a  
4 vendor further includes:

5 means for sending a message -- containing at least one  
6 part selected from the group comprising the value of  
7 a rebate, and at least one limit on the quantity of  
8 the rebate -- in response to a message from at least  
9 one rebate-related vendor that a rebate vehicle has  
10 been scanned.

1 35. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for  
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,  
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a  
4 vendor further includes:

5 means for receiving a message from a vendor that at least  
6 one rebate vehicle has been scanned.

1 36. The system of Claim 35, wherein said means for  
2 receiving a message from a vendor that at least one rebate  
3 vehicle has been scanned further includes:

4 means for checking the message for an indicia of  
5 origination.



1 37. The system of Claim 35, wherein said means for  
2 receiving a message from a vendor that at least one rebate  
3 vehicle has been scanned further includes:

4 means for receiving a message originating from at least  
5 one scanner of the vendor.

1 38. The system of Claim 37, wherein said means for  
2 receiving a message originating from at least one scanner of  
3 the vendor further includes:

4 means for receiving the message via at least one central  
5 computer.

1 39. The system of Claim 37, wherein said means for  
2 receiving a message originating from at least one scanner of  
3 the vendor further includes:

4 means for receiving the message via at least one computer  
5 local to a retailer or a manufacturer.

1 40. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for  
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,  
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a  
4 vendor further comprises:

5 means for receiving a message inquiring as to monies  
6 owed.

1 41. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for  
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,  
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a  
4 vendor further comprising:

5 means for receiving a message from a retailer or a  
6 manufacturer.

1 42. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for  
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,

3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a  
4 vendor further includes:

5 means for informing a vendor as to monies owed for said  
6 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-  
7 rebate-list.

1 43. The system of Claim 23, further comprising:  
2 means for billing at least one vendor for said dispensing  
3 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list.

1 44. The system of Claim 43, wherein said means for  
2 billing at least one vendor for said dispensing information  
3 related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list further comprises:  
4 means for billing the at least one vendor a fee selected  
5 from a group comprising a fee based upon answering  
6 an inquiry as to monies owed, a fee based on the  
7 value of rebate transactions, and a fee based on the  
8 number of rebate transactions.

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